25. (Reiterated). A method according to claim 15, wherein one or more of said amino acids is synthetic.

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 7-9, 11-12, 15-17, 21-23 are amended. Claims 6, 10 and 18-20 are canceled. After entry of this amendment claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-17 and 21-25 will be pending. The amendments to the claims are for purposes of clarity.

Applicant expressly reserves his/her right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file a divisional application directed to the nonelected subject matter during the pendency of this application, or an application claiming priority from this application.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant elects Group I (claims 1-5 and 7-26) with traverse. Applicant asserts that it would not be an undue burden to search all of the claims in this case.

Regarding the species election, for the blood group, Applicant elects "blood proteins" with traverse. For the peptide, it is respectfully noted that the pending claims are directed to a platform technology that is applicable to any peptide in need of stabilization in vivo against peptidase activity. The claims should not be limited to a particular peptide.

In any event, for the species election, Applicant elects antimicrobial peptides, with traverse. In particular, Applicant elects SEQ ID NO:1032 with traverse.

Applicant requests examination of the elected subject matter on the merits.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made**".

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 500862002300. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 12, 2002

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the Claims

SEE ATTACHED.

7. (Amended) A method for protecting from peptidase degradation a therapeutic peptide sensitive to such peptidase degradation~~from peptidase activity~~ *in vivo*, said peptide ~~being composed of~~comprising between 3 and 50 amino acids and having a carboxy terminus and an amino terminus and a carboxy terminal amino acid ~~amino acid~~ and an amino terminal amino acid, comprising:

(a) modifying said peptide by ~~attaching~~coupling a reactive group to the carboxy terminal amino acid, to the amino terminal amino acid, or to an amino acid located between the amino terminal amino acid and the carboxy terminal amino acid, ~~such that said modified peptide is~~the reactive group being capable of forming a covalent bond *in vivo* with a reactive functionality on a blood component; and

(b) forming a covalent bond between said reactive group and a reactive functionality on a blood component to form a peptide-blood component conjugate, thereby protecting said peptide from peptidase ~~activity~~degradation.~~; and~~

~~(c) analyzing the stability of said peptide-blood component conjugate to assess the protection of said peptide from peptidase activity.~~

8. (Amended0 A method according to claim 7, ~~further comprising the step of administering said modified peptide *in vivo* before step (b), such that~~wherein the peptide-blood component conjugate is formed *in vivo*.

9. (Amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein ~~step (b) occurs~~ the peptide-blood component conjugate is formed *ex vivo*.

11. (Amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein said reactive group ~~is~~comprises a maleimide~~o~~ group.

12. (Amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein said reactive group is ~~attached~~ coupled to said peptide via a lysine and/or a linking group.

15. (Amended) A method for protecting from peptidase degradation a therapeutic peptide sensitive to such peptidase degradation~~from peptidase activity~~ *in vivo*, said peptide ~~being composed of~~comprising between 3 and 50 amino acids and having a therapeutically active region of amino acids and a less therapeutically active region of amino acids, comprising:

(a) ~~determining~~identifying said therapeutically active region of amino acids;

(b) modifying said peptide at an amino acid included in said less therapeutically active region ~~of amino acids~~ by ~~attaching~~coupling thereto a reactive group to said amino acid to form a modified peptide, such that said modified peptide has therapeutic activity, ~~and is~~ the reactive group being capable of forming a covalent bond *in vivo* with a reactive functionality on a blood component; and

(c) forming a covalent bond between said reactive entity and a reactive functionality on a blood component to form a peptide-blood component conjugate, thereby protecting said peptide from peptidase activity.~~; and~~

~~(d) analyzing the stability of said peptide-blood component conjugate to assess the protection of said peptide from peptidase activity.~~

16. (Amended) A method according to claim 15, ~~further comprising the step of administering said modified peptide in vivo before step (c), such that~~wherein the peptide-blood component conjugate is formed *in vivo*.

17. (Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein ~~step (c) occurs~~the peptide-blood component conjugate is formed *ex vivo*.

21. (Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein said peptide has a carboxy terminus, an amino terminus, a carboxy terminal amino acid and an amino terminal amino acid, and wherein step (b) further comprises:

(a) if said less therapeutically active ~~portion~~region is located at the carboxy terminus of said peptide, then modifying said peptide at the carboxy terminal amino acid of said peptide; or

(b) if said less therapeutically active ~~portion~~region is located at the amino terminus of said peptide, then modifying said peptide at the amino terminal amino acid of said peptide; ~~and~~ or

(c) if said less therapeutically active ~~portion~~region is located at neither the amino terminus nor the carboxy terminus of said peptide, then modifying said peptide at an amino acid located between the carboxy terminus and the amino terminus.

22. (Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein said reactive group is a maleimide~~o~~ group.

23. (Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein said reactive ~~entity~~group is ~~attached~~coupled to said peptide via a linking group.